Abstract

A wireless access control system for an electronic device comprises a personal
locking device and an access control software module. The electronic device
and personal locking device are Bluetooth-enabled and use Bluetooth to
communicate with each other. The access control software is used to establish a
Bluetooth link between these devices, based on the unique Bluetooth identifiers
of the personal locking device and the electronic device. The personal locking
device is preferably portable and is carried by the user at all times. Examples of
preferred personal locking devices are cellular telephones, personal digital
assistants, and pocket PCs. The Bluetooth radio chip and the Bluetooth
communications protocol monitor the quality of service of the Bluetooth link
between the devices. When the quality of service falls below a predetermined
threshold, the access control software may switch the electronic device from an
unlocked state to a locked state. When the quality of service rises above a
predetermined threshold from below the threshold, the software may switch the
electronic device from a locked state to an unlocked state.